REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 4-6 and 8 are amended, claims 2-3 and 7 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 9-10 are added. Various amendments are made for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,363,422 to Hunter et al. (hereafter Hunter) in view of U.S. Patent 7,099,934 to Ewing et al. (hereafter Ewing). The rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Independent claim 1 recites at least one slave for outputting operational state information indicative of at least one operation state of said at least one slave, the at least one operation state being variable after powering said at least one slave. Independent claim 1 also recites a master for periodically receiving the operation state information output from said at least one slave to determine a current operation state of said at least one slave and to determine whether said at least one slave has been reset, said master having a non-volatile memory in which the operation state information of said at least one slave is stored and transmitting to said at least one slave the stored operation state information if the master determines that said at least one slave has been reset.

Hunter describes a server coupled to a client via a network. The server provides alarm and viewing management services enabling monitoring and controlling functions of the client in the event of a change in an operating condition for any infrastructure device coupled to the

client. The Office Action asserts that Hunter's col. 1, line 1-col. 5, line 1 discloses monitoring and storing state information in a home network. However, the cited sections of Hunter do not suggest a system whereby at least one slave is set using stored operation state information from a master's memory in the event of interrupted power. The Office Action (on page 2) also states that Hunter does not disclose providing state information to the slave when the slave is reset.

Ewing describes a network comprising a power manager connected to control power modules each of which is able to independently control the power on/off status of several network appliances. See Ewing's Abstract. Therefore, rather than using a master's stored operation state information to restore a current set of operation state information for a slave (i.e., rather than reinstating a slave's current status in accordance with its previous status), Ewing's power modules report to a power manager a power status of each network appliance so that such appliances may be rebooted according to preset power-up conditions that may be determined locally. In doing so, Ewing's system merely controls an on/off power status. Ewing does not teach or suggest transmitting, to a slave, operation state information enabling network information to be fully restored.

Hunter and Ewing do not teach or suggest a master for periodically receiving the operation state information output from said at least one slave to determine a current operation state of said at least one slave and to determine whether said at least one slave has been reset, said master having a non-volatile memory in which the operation state information of said at least one slave is stored and transmitting to said at least one slave the stored operation state

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information if the master determines that said at least one slave has been reset, as recited in independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 6 recites outputting, from at least one slave, operational state information indicative of at least one operation state of the at least one slave, the at least one operation state being variable after powering the at least one slave. Independent claim 6 also recites periodically receiving at the master, the operation state information output from the at least one slave to determine a current operation state of the at least one slave and to determine whether the at least one slave has been reset. Still further, independent claim 6 recites storing, in the non-volatile memory, the operation state information of the at least one slave, and transmitting the stored operation state information from the master to the at least one slave if it is determined that the at least one slave has been reset.

For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Hunter and Ewing do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 6. Accordingly, independent claim 6 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 9 recites a communication module, connected to the at least one slave, for periodically receiving the operation state information from the at least one slave, memory for storing the operation state information of the at least one slave, and a CPU for periodically checking a current operation state of the at least one slave to determine whether the at least one slave has been reset and for transmitting the stored operation state information to the at least one slave, if it is determined that the at least one slave has been reset.

For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Hunter and Ewing do not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 9. Thus, independent claim 9 defines patentable subject matter.

For at least the reasons set forth above, each of independent claims 1, 6 and 9 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 4-6 and 8-10 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,
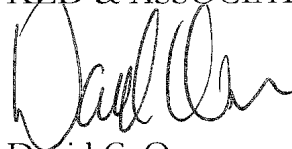
concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and

please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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